

The kangaroos usually feed at night, and in the evenings and mornings, but they are exceedingly sharp-sighted in the day time.

The third species is the "*Wallaby*," of which a specimen is sent. It is of a much darker brown, smaller than either of the preceding, and is most common near the sea, and on the islands in Bass's Strait. They are excellent eating, but the smallness of the skins renders them less valuable for tanning.

A fourth species, commonly called *Kangaroo Rat*, may prove to be of the genus *Hypsiprymnus*; they are considerably smaller than the wallaby, but progress on their hind legs similar to the kangaroo. There may, in reality, be some other species, but I have not closely examined many specimens. Their mode of bringing forth young, &c. is now so much better known in England than out here, that I need make no remarks on the subject.

Milk-white or cream-coloured kangaroos (*Halmaturus albus*, Gray,) exist in Van Diemen's Land, although but sparingly. I also possessed a *white* opossum of No. 3 alive, which I gave Mr. Short to take to England. I had previously possessed a white skin. I presume them all to be albinos.

Notes on the above, with descriptions of two new Species.

By J. E. Gray, F.R.S.

The above paper contains the best remarks on the Mammalia of Van Diemen's Land that I have seen, and corrects several inaccuracies into which naturalists have fallen from not having the opportunity of examining the animals on the spot. Among the collections are two new species, which I shall now proceed to describe. Having occasion some years ago to consult the original description of the wombat given by Bass in Collins's Account of New South Wales, ii. 155, I found that all the difficulty which has occurred with respect to his animal is occasioned by a simple misprint of *five* for *two* in his description, by which he is made to say that the animal "has *five* long grass-cutting teeth in the front of each jaw, like those of a kangaroo; within them is a vacancy for an inch or more; then appear *two* small canines, of equal height with, and so much similar to, *eight* molares situated behind them, as scarcely to be

distinguished from them. The whole number in both jaws amount to twenty-four." It is evident from his whole number that the cutting-teeth should have been two and not five, as they are in the wombat described by Geoffroy. Illiger, (Prodromus, 77,) overlooking this misprint, and being aware that no known Mammalia have an odd number of cutting-teeth, describes his genus *Amblotis* as having six teeth in each jaw. Succeeding naturalists have been inclined to believe that Illiger and Bass's animal is to be discovered. I have seen Bass's specimen, which is now in the Museum of the Natural History Society of Newcastle-on-Tyne: it is the same as the one we now usually receive from Van Diemen's Land, only discoloured by having been kept in spirit.

It is to be regretted that no specimen of No. 2 was sent, as there are two different species confounded under the name of *P. Cookii*, one coming from Van Diemen's Land, which must be called the real *P. Cookii*, as it is the opossum of Van Diemen's Land described by Cook, last Voyage, i. 108, t. 1; from this arises the Phalanger de Cook, Cuv. Règ. Anim., i. 179; *Phalangista Cookii*, Temm. Monog., i. 7. The other, which was found near the Endeavour River, New Holland, may be called *Phalangista Banksii*; it is the New Holland opossum of Pennant (Quad., ii. 25.), the Opossum of Hawkesby, Voy., ii. 586, and probably the *Balantia Cookii* of Kuhl. (Beitr. 63.) Capt. Cook thought that the Van Diemen's Land animal might be the male of the one discovered by Sir J. Banks in New Holland. Dr. Shaw, in his white-tailed opossum, has partly combined Pennant and Cook's descriptions. Cuvier refers to Cook's plate; and Temminck says that he described a specimen brought home in Capt. Cook's expedition which is now in the Leyden Museum.

9. *Phalangista fuliginosa*, Ogilby? Back and tail black; sides brownish; throat, chest, and belly yellowish brown; under side of the tip of the tail bald.

6. *Perameles Gunnii*, Gray. Muzzle elongate, conical, tapering, grey-brown, with scattered black tipped rigid flattened bristles; lips, throat, belly, inside of the legs, feet, tail, and four broad bands on each side of the rump white; front claws elongate, slightly arched, yellow; ears moderate, rather naked,

brown and hairy in front; the thumb of the hand feet small, subcylindrical, blunt, clawless. Length: head, 5; body, 11; tail, $4\frac{1}{2}$; hind feet, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

These animals have been generally supposed to feed on insects, and Dr. Grant discovered the remains of insects in the stomach of the one he examined.

The "*Wallaby*" kangaroo is quite different from the species which usually goes by that name in this country, and proves to be a species which I have not before seen, belonging to the subgenus *Thylogale*; therefore I shall characterise it.

Halmaturus (Thylogale) Tasmanei, Gray. Blackish brown, reddish and black varied; upper lip, chin, throat, and beneath pale reddish brown; hind feet short, brown, grizzled; tail rather short, scaly, covered with short close-pressed hairs, with longer soft crisped hairs along the upper part of its base. Length, 25; tail, 10?; hind feet, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

This species is very different from any of the specimens which I have described in my lately-published revision of the family, and if the tail is not injured it will agree in the shortness of this member with the *H. Thylogale brevicaudatus*, the *Kangaroo à queue courte* figured by Quoy and Gaynard in the *Voyage of the Astrolabe*, (Mammalia, t. 19,) but which is quite differently coloured.

FISHES.

I have this season, from my residence being so near the sea, procured a few fish, but have not numbered them. They were all caught in a seine at Circular Head except one species, called a "*Nurse*" (*Cestracion Philippi*, Cuv.); I caught it at Western Port. Another species of shark, called here *Sword Fish*, (*Pristis cirrhatus*, Lath.) is abundant; the peculiarly prolonged and armed snout struck me as curious: three specimens are sent. A fish called *Sea Hedge-hog* or *Porcupine* (*Diodon*) is also very abundant. On being brought to land it inflates itself into a perfect sphere, the skin as tight as a foot-ball, and the spines erect and stiff in all directions from the body: it continues so for some time. Some of the skins now sent are well-preserved.

"*Leather Jackets*" (*Monacanthus*, Cuv.). Of these, two are